



Members:

Rep. Vanessa Summers, Chair
Rep. Mae Dickinson
Rep. Robert Behning
Rep. Michael Young
Sen. Patricia Miller, Vice-Chair
Sen. Lawrence Borst
Sen. Billie Breaux
Sen. Glenn Howard

CENTRAL STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

LSA Staff:

Ron Sobecki, Fiscal Analyst for the Committee
Robert Rudolph, Attorney for the Committee

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MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: August 26, 1998
Meeting Time: 6:30 P.M.
Meeting Place: 2440 W. Ohio St, Hawthorne Community Center
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 3

Members Present: Rep. Vanessa Summers, Chair; Rep. Mae Dickinson; Rep. Robert Behning;
Rep. Michael Young; Sen. Patricia Miller; Sen. Billie Breaux.

Members Absent: Sen. Lawrence Borst; Sen. Glenn Howard.

LSA Staff Present: Ron Sobecki, Fiscal Analyst; Bob Rudolph, Staff Attorney.

Representative Summers called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was for the residents living near Central State Hospital to express their views as to how they would like to see the Central State property used.

Sen. Miller stated the Committee was created as a result of the closing of the Central State Hospital. Senator Miller provided the public with an overview of what the Committee has been studying. She stated that one proposal which the Committee studied was to establish programs for children with special needs and to move these children to the property. She explained that there is no longer a need for these programs at Central State. Sen. Miller stated there are still individuals that feel there is a need for mental health programs at the Central State property.

Public Testimony

Mr. James Dean, a concerned citizen, testified that he worked at Central State Hospital for over 30 years. He stated that he is concerned that the patients at Central State were discharged too quickly. He said that he does not believe there is a need for Central State to be re-opened as a mental hospital.

Ms. Diane Arnold, Executive Director, Hawthorne Center, asked for an explanation of the status of a Department of Administration (DOA) plan that has been developed for the property. Representative Summers explained that the DOA plan is on hold and that the Committee did not approve of the plan. Rep. Behning noted that the state has completed several plans and the Committee is skeptical of the latest plan. He explained that any plan must be approved by the Committee.

Ms. Arnold stated that residents do not want the property to be used as a prison and would prefer some of the property being used for green space.

Mary Anderson, a concerned citizen, testified that Indianapolis has a 20% deficit in green space. She stated that this property could be developed in the same manner as Ft. Benjamin Harrison which could serve as a blueprint for the Central State property. She testified that she is opposed to any strip shopping center on the property that borders Washington Street.

Reverend John Gauss, Pastor, Washington Street United Methodist Church, stated his church, which is across the street from the Central State property, could benefit by using a piece of the property as a parking lot.

Mr. Tom Arbogast, a concerned citizen, noted that programs are lacking for those individuals that need help. He stated there is a lot to be said for reopening Central State Hospital. He discussed his nephew's experience in moving from the New Castle Developmental Center to a group home. Mr. Arbogast feels that Indiana needs facilities for those who cannot take care of themselves.

Janet Corson, Director, Division of Mental Health, discussed the Central State Hospital budget at the time of its closing. She stated that it costs approximately \$75,000 per year for a person in a state-operated facility. Ms. Corson said that residential placements in the community costs \$36,000 to \$50,000, depending on the type of placement.

City-County Councilman Jeff Golc stated that the Committee needs to have a vision for the property. Representative Summers replied that the Committee has not decided the best use of the property but wanted to hear from residents as to their thoughts on the use of the property. Representative Behning stated that if the state does not need the property for the mentally ill perhaps the best use of the property would be for green space.

Reverend John Neece, Pastor, West Park Christian Church, stated that the development of the Central State property is important for the redevelopment of this area. He said there needs to be a partnership to look at the best way to use the property.

Representative Summers stated that the next meeting of the Committee will be held on September 23, 1998, at 10:30 a.m., in Room 156-B of the Statehouse.

There being no further testimony Representative Summers adjourned the meeting.